

## Air War College

**Title:** International Rivals

**Description:** Knowing your adversary is one of the oldest dictums of military strategy and statecraft. This course will examine the leadership and strategic cultures of a wide range of state and non-state actors who currently present threats to the security and/or interests of the United States and its allies. Additionally, the course will examine those countries and groups that may present future threats to these interests. This course will examine the leaders and strategic cultures of terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah, Al Qaeda, and Taliban radicals in Afghanistan, as well as international criminals. Also, we will study the rulers and strategic cultures of current and potential adversary states like China, North Korea, Iran, Syria and Russia.

**Course Objective:** Evaluate how best to protect and defend the interests of the United States by understanding the interests, goals and motivations of adversary leaders. Investigate adversary's decision making structure and process, their motivation and goals, and their perceptions of the United States.

**Desired Learning Outcomes:**

1. Understand the leaders and strategic cultures of current and potential adversary states and several terrorist organizations that do or might oppose the interests of the US and its allies.
2. Analyze the major challenges to US interests posed by such leaders and regimes.
3. Evaluate various courses of action to influence such leaders and regimes in ways consistent with US national security and interests.

**Required Texts:**

1. Lawrence Wright, *The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*, pp.7-83.
2. Kindt, Post, and Schneider, Editors, *Know Thy Enemy II: A Look at the World's Most Threatening Terrorist Networks and Criminal Gangs*.
3. David Albright, *Peddling Peril: How the Secret Nuclear Trade Arms America's Enemies*.
4. Schneider and Ellis, *Tailored Deterrence: Influencing State and Groups of Concern*.

**Determination of grade:**

1. Class Contribution – 30%
2. Book Review or Short Bio Paper – 25%
3. Research Paper– 45%

**Contribution:** Students must be active in providing solid inputs in all discussions, field study trips, and group activities. The contribution grade will be based on each student's demonstrated understanding of the readings, research, and analysis that adds to the overall success of individual and group efforts.

**Book Review or Short Bio Paper.** Complete a properly documented 5 page review of a book covering a nation or group that may present a threat to the security interests of the United States OR a five page biography a leader of a state or non-state group that may threaten US interests.

**Research Paper.** Research and write a well-reasoned and informed 10 to 15 page, fully and correctly documented paper on an appropriate current world leader, or on his or her state or organization that may challenge US security interests. Details on format and requirements will be forthcoming in class. Research paper topic counseling sessions with the instructors should be individually scheduled early in the course.

**Course Outline:**

IP 01: Course Introduction & Introduction to Tailored Deterrence

IP 02: Radical Islam and Al Qaeda

IP 03: China – Emerging Peer Competitor

IP 04: Russia – Partner or Enemy?

IP 05: Iran, Syria and Hezbollah

IP 06: The Taliban Insurgency in Afghanistan)

IP 07: Kim Jong Il and North Korea

IP 08: Illicit Trafficking: Syria, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, S. Africa and Libya

IP 09: Illicit Trafficking: North Korea, Al Qaeda and Busting the A.Q. Khan Network

IP 10: The Drug War: Mexico and Columbia